

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
U.S. Application No. 09/700,258
PCT/AT99/00115
Attorney Docket Q61663
January 7, 2005

REMARKS

By way of this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 19-21 and 30 to be in independent form and has canceled independent claim 18. In view of the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, it is submitted that claims 19-35 are in condition for allowance.

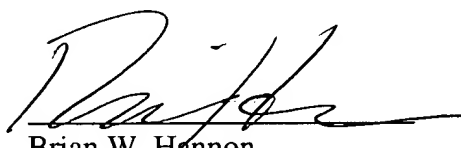
In addition, Applicant has added new claims 36 and 37 which are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art of record. More specifically, independent claim 36 recites that the connector includes a first hole for receiving the end portion of the one transverse struts and second and third holes for receiving the respective end portions of the two flexible bars, and that the second and third holes are perpendicular to the first hole. Claim 37 recites that the first, second and third holes form a T-shape configuration. Accordingly, these claims are similar to, for example, allowable claim 19 in terms of the configuration of the holes. The prior art does not teach or suggest the features recited in new claims 36 and 37.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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